

01/11/00

01-16-00

A

FORM PTO-1082

Attorney
Docket No.:

LOHSE-1

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of
Inventor: Kurt H. Lohsefor: A METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISCOUNT INCENTIVES TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS WHO
WISH TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE PURCHASE

Enclosed are:

- ☒ 9 informal sheets of drawing.
- ☐ An assignment of the invention to _____
- ☐ A certified copy of a _____ application.
- ☐ An associate power of attorney.
- ☒ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ _____

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

FOR:	(Col. 1) NO. FILED	(Col. 2) NO. EXTRA
BASIC FEE		
TOTAL CLAIMS	14 -20=	0
INDEP CLAIMS	2 -3=	0
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED		

* If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2

SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE
\$ 9	0
\$ 39	0
\$ 130	0
TOTAL	\$ 345.00

OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE
\$ 18	\$
\$ 78	\$
\$ 260	\$
TOTAL	\$

- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 06-0930 in the amount of \$ _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 345.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0930. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- ☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0930. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).
- ☐ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING
hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL4977 73094 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

1/11/2000
(Date of Deposit)

LEONARD TACHNER

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Agent

Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Tachner
Leonard Tachner
Attorney for the Applicant(s)
Registration No. 26,344

Dated: 1/11/2000

Telephone (949) 752-8525
Telefax (949) 955-2415

jc678 U.S. PTO
09/482830
01/11/00

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

LOHSE-1

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Kurt H. Lohse

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: January 11, 2000

Title: A METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISCOUNT INCENTIVES TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS
WHO WISH TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE PURCHASE

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.

☐ the application identified above.

☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.

☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

Kurt H. Lohse

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR


Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

1/6/2000
Date

Date

Date

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to the field of distribution of product non-specific coupons over the internet. The invention relates more specifically to a method for rewarding potential, immediate customers with discount incentives to make purchases at a particular store or chain of stores within a limited period of time, the incentives taking the form of coupons downloaded over the internet and printed by the purchaser at his or her computer system.

BACKGROUND ART

The internet downloading and computer printing of discount coupons is not unique. U.S. Patent No. 5,907,830 to Engel et al discloses an electronic coupon distribution system in which product-specific coupons are downloaded over the internet and printed at a consumer's computer system for subsequent redemption when the identified product-specific coupon can normally be redeemed at any retail store selling the particular product. Such coupons are no more beneficial to the retailer than any other coupon such as those published in newspapers or distributed through mass mailings. While a retailer may benefit indirectly through some increase in consumer traffic, typically all competing retailers who offer the particular product will generally benefit to the same extent.

Of course there are methods that enable specific retailers to attract customers through other forms of incentives. For example, hard coupons are often distributed in mass coupon book mailings sometimes in conjunction with other non-competing retailers who

1 share space in a mall or shopping center. Hard coupons that are retailer specific may
2 also be distributed in daily publications such as by newspaper inserts and the like.
3 Unfortunately, coupon book mailings and newspaper inserts can be very costly and a
4 retailer can't expect more than a very small percentage of recipients to actually use the
5 coupons. Thus, the return on the investment for such hard coupon distribution
6 techniques can be meager at best and often the resulting business generated by such
7 hard coupons does not justify the costs of distribution.

8
9 It would be highly advantageous if there were a system for distributing non-product
10 specific coupons, or in other words, retailer-specific coupons, over the internet to
11 potential customers who plan to make immediate or at least imminent use of such
12 coupons at a particular retail store or retail chain. Distribution over the internet would
13 reach consumers who have a very strong and immediate interest in taking advantage of
14 an incentive to purchase products or services redeemable through such retailer-
15 specific coupons.
16

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a method for substantially instant electronic generation of volume discount coupons based on projected total dollar amounts consumers are planning to spend at a particular retailer or group of retailers within a specified time. The method produces an unspecified-product discount coupon representing a consumer's intention to purchase a minimum dollar amount of goods or services from a specific retailer or group of retailers within a limited period of time. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the method comprises the steps of making available an electronic internet tool that permits consumers to negotiate a volume discount with selected retailers by matching various previously arranged retailer discount amounts and conditions with consumer discount requests; providing notification of the final match conditions to both the consumer and to the selected retailers; tracking and supplying historical and regional discount information to retailers regarding cost effective consumer incentive patterns; and creating and linking custom maps providing directions to the local retailers for whom coupons have been generated.

The disclosed embodiment provides consumers with the ability to create their own discount coupons in return for preliminary purchasing information, and in turn, allows retailers to redirect marketing budgets slotted for untargeted mass marketing campaigns in order to subsidize the immediate volume discount and secure the sale. Because of the flexibilities offered by discount coupons based on total dollar amounts spent rather than product specific discounts, consumers will be encouraged to spend more and purchase a wider variety of items during each visit in order to get better discounts. Because of the information provided by the volume discount requests, retailers will have the ability to make their advertising and marketing budgets more efficient by using those funds to generate immediate sales, stimulate new sales in slow

- 3

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide a method for instantly generating dollar volume discount coupons for consumers to use at specific retailers or retail chains within a specified period of time.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an internet website where consumers can obtain dollar volume discount coupons by matching their anticipated dollar volume of imminent spending at a particular retail store or retail store chain and the preselected dollar volume and time constraint conditions established by participating retail stores and retail store chains for issuing discount coupon incentives.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a consumer an electronically generated discount coupon for a particular retail store along with a map providing directions for locating that store.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a method for substantially increasing the effectiveness of retailers' discount incentive programs by electronic generation of dollar volume discount coupons in response to potential customers' inquiries on the internet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The aforementioned objects and advantages of the present invention, as well as additional objects and advantages thereof, will be more fully understood hereinafter as a result of a detailed description of a preferred embodiment when taken in conjunction with the following drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is an internet website page of the invention for registering retailer participants;

FIG. 2 is an internet website page of the invention for obtaining discounting conditions from retailers;

FIG. 3 is an internet website page of the invention for registering customers;

FIG. 4 is an internet website page of the invention for customers to log in;

FIG. 5 is an internet website page of the invention for customers to generate a discount coupon;

FIG. 6 is an internet website page of the invention presenting a selected discount coupon and map for printing; and

FIGs. 7-9 are flow charts of the invention illustrating the steps of the method hereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the accompanying drawings and FIGs. 1-6 in particular, it will be seen that these figures depict website pages used in the present invention. More specifically, FIG. 1 depicts the website page used for registering retailers who wish to participate in the method hereof. It provides a vehicle for indicating the retailer's name and other identifying information including website address, category of business and trade area. FIG. 2 provides a vehicle for setting coupon parameters by registered retailers. The parameters include start and end dates, coupon use period (measured from date of issuance) and purchase amount versus discount in percentage or dollars. There is also provision for indicating additional information such as store hours, credit cards accepted and miscellaneous business-related messages. FIG. 3 provides a registration page for customers who wish to participate. It provides a vehicle for indicating the customer's name, address, E-mail address, birth date and establishes a user name and password that are unique to each customer.

FIG. 4 is a website page used in the present invention to permit a customer to log in and select retailers by area, by recent addition or by product category. FIG. 5 is a website page which permits a customer to initiate a coupon generation process for a selected retailer. It provides entries for the name of the retailer or retail chain and the amount of the imminent purchases anticipated by the customer. It also gives the customer the option of generating a map of the retailer's location.

FIG. 6 illustrates a typical discount coupon generated in accordance with the method of the invention. As seen in FIG. 6, a typical coupon will have an expiration date and the amount of the discount for a given minimum purchase amount. It will, of course, also include identification of the retailer by name and address. Other information such as authorization phone number, code numbers and UPC bar code data may be

1 provided. The bar code data may be used to ensure that the discount data is genuine
2 and in accordance with retailer registration parameters. A map is also available to
3 provide street directions to the retailer's location. The page depicted in FIG. 6 is
4 intended to be printed by the customer so that it may be hand carried to the retailer to
5 be redeemed for the indicated discount.

6
7 FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating home page entry by a user who may be either a
8 customer or a retailer. The first step determines whether the user is a return user or a
9 new user. If the user is already registered, his or her record is accessed and then it is
10 determined whether the user is a consumer or a merchant (customer or retailer). If the
11 user is a consumer and has logged in correctly, the login data is recorded and the user
12 is given access to make a coupon. If the user is a merchant, access is given to
13 merchant services which will be described in flow chart form below. If the user is not
14 yet registered, it is first determined whether the user is a consumer or a merchant. If
15 the unregistered user is a merchant, registration is first implemented and then the
16 merchant is given access to relevant media information and then contacted by the
17 website host to set up a merchant account. If the unregistered user is a consumer,
18 registration is first implemented and a user record is created for the newly registered
19 consumer. Welcome message E-mail may then be sent to the new consumer. The
20 consumer is then given access to make a coupon as described below.

21
22 FIGs. 8 and 9 illustrate in flow chart form the details of making a coupon in
23 accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention. FIG. 9 is actually a more
24 detailed flow chart of the outlined portion of FIG. 8. As seen in both FIGs. 8 and 9, the
25 first step in make-a-coupon process is to have the user select discounts to be located
26 in the consumer's area by category of products offered, newly registered merchants or
27 all merchants in that area. As seen best in FIG. 9, this step is carried out by querying
28 one of three different combinations of database criteria. If the desired merchants are
29 found, a list of those merchants is displayed. If the desired merchants are not found,

1 the search through the databases continues. The user eventually selects the desired
2 merchant and specifies the amount he or she intends to spend on purchases at that
3 merchant's store. The inventive method then queries the corresponding merchant file
4 to find a discount parameter that may match the amount specified by the consumer. If
5 no match is found, the merchant's minimum spending amount for a discount is
6 displayed to permit the consumer the opportunity to raise his or her spending amount to
7 the minimum specified. Eventually, when a discount level is found, a coupon for the
8 selected merchant and having the matching parameters, is displayed and, if acceptable
9 to the consumer may be printed on the consumer's computer printer. If the consumer
10 does not wish to print the coupon, the entire process is repeated or the consumer may
11 exit the site. If the coupon printing step is carried out, a unique identification number is
12 printed as well. In addition, both the merchant's coupon record and the consumer's
13 record are updated. After coupon printing the user may seek another discount or exit
14 the site.

15
16 Having thus disclosed a preferred embodiment of the assembly and method of the
17 invention, it being understood that many variations and additions are contemplated,
18 what is claimed is:
19

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing discount incentives to potential customers for making purchases from service or goods providers; the method comprising the steps of:

providing an internet website for providers to register and to set their respective discount parameters for issuing discount coupons to potential customers;

5 permitting access to said website by said potential customers to register and search for registered providers from whom they wish to make purchases;

establishing customer purchasing parameters for a selected provider and indicating a match between discount parameters and purchasing parameters; and

presenting a website display of a discount coupon corresponding to said

10 matching parameters for printout by a registered customer for subsequent redemption at a provider's place of business.

2. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said matching parameters comprise an amount to be spent by the customer and a specified period of time in which said amount must be spent.

3. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said presenting step further comprises the steps of generating a map indicating the location of a selected provider and adding said map to said website display.

4. The method recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing a data file of coupon generation for each said provider.

5. The method recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of including at least one verification number on each said discount coupon.

6. The method recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying a search page at said website for permitting a postponed customer to search for a provider based upon selected criteria.

7. The method recited in claim 6 wherein said search criteria comprise at least one criterion taken from the group consisting of location, nature of products offered, nature of services offered and timing of provider registration at said website.

8. A method of issuing electronically-generated merchant-specific discount coupons to consumers over an internet communications link; the method comprising the steps of:

establishing an internet website on said link, said website having a selected address;

providing at least one website page for merchants to register and to set their respective discount parameters for said discount coupons;

providing at least one website page for consumers to register and search for registered merchants based upon selected search criteria;

providing at least one website page for consumers to indicate their desired purchase parameters;

comparing discount parameters of a merchant with purchase parameters of a consumer and indicating when a match of discount parameters and purchase parameters occurs;

presenting a website page having an electronic discount coupon representing the matching parameters for a particular merchant; and

permitting a consumer to print the presented page for subsequent redemption of the discount coupon represented at said presented website page.

9. The method recited in claim 8 wherein said matching parameters comprise an amount to be spent by the consumer and a specified period of time in which said amount must be spent.

10. The method recited in claim 8 wherein said presenting step further comprises the steps of generating a map indicating the location of a selected merchant and adding said map to said website display.

11. The method recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of establishing a data file of coupon generation for each said merchant.

12. The method recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of including at least one verification number on each said discount coupon.

13. The method recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of displaying a search page at said website for permitting a postponed consumer to search for a merchant based upon selected criteria.

14. The method recited in claim 13 wherein said search criteria comprise at least one criterion taken from the group consisting of location, nature of products offered, nature of services offered and timing of merchant registration at said website.

1 **LOHSE-1**

2
3
4 **A METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISCOUNT INCENTIVES TO POTENTIAL**
5 **CUSTOMERS WHO WISH TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE PURCHASE**
6

7
8 **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**
9

10 A method for substantially instant electronic generation of volume discount coupons
11 based on projected total dollar amounts consumers are planning to spend at a
12 particular retailer or group of retailers within a specified time. The method produces an
13 unspecified-product discount coupon representing a consumer's intention to purchase
14 a minimum dollar amount of goods or services from a specific retailer or group of
15 retailers within a limited period of time. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the
16 method comprises the steps of making available an electronic internet tool that permits
17 consumers to negotiate a volume discount with selected retailers by matching various
18 previously arranged retailer discount amounts and conditions with consumer discount
19 requests; providing notification of the final match conditions to both the consumer and
20 to the selected retailers; tracking and supplying historical and regional discount
21 information to retailers regarding cost effective consumer incentive patterns; and
22 creating and linking custom maps providing directions to the local retailers for whom
23 coupons have been generated.
24
25



THIS IS WHAT THE INTERNET WAS MADE FOR!

How it Works...

You place online, discount coupons good at your business for the next 24 hours or more. This will give customers the incentive to visit your business as soon as they get the coupon. Customers will locate your coupons based on the area which your business is located or the products/services you offer.

Using your unique retailer username and password and our simple interface, you design, add, remove and modify coupons anytime you want.

Benefits...

- Instant distribution of coupons to thousands of customers in your area
- Pay only for coupons viewed by serious clients
- Include useful information about your business (hours, credit cards accepted, etc...)
- Provide maps and driving directions to your business

Ready to get started? Please send us your contact information on the form provided below... you will then be contacted by one of our representatives to assist you in setting up your account. Or you can call us at 1-800-555-1212. Please ask for the advertising sales department. If you are already a registered advertiser with Quick-Save.com, click here to manage your account.

Name:

Company:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Co. Web Site:

About Your Business

(check all that apply)

Trade Area: ☐ Local ☐ Regional ☐ National

- Category:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances/Electronics | <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |

Comment/Message:



FIG. 1



Listed below are each of your current coupons and your general business information. To make changes simply edit the text or selection boxes and press click the update button at the bottom of the page.

Coupon 1 ☐ Delete this Coupon

Start Date: End Date: Valid For: Days

Level 1 Spend: \$ Discount: (ex. 5% or \$5.00)

Level 2 Spend: \$ Discount: (ex. 5% or \$5.00)

Level 3 Spend: \$ Discount: (ex. 5% or \$5.00)

Coupon 2 ☐ Delete this Coupon

Start Date: End Date: Valid For: Days

Level 1 Spend: \$ Discount: (ex. 5% or \$5.00)

Level 2 Spend: \$ Discount: (ex. 5% or \$5.00)

Level 3 Spend: \$ Discount: (ex. 5% or \$5.00)

Business Information	
Store Hours:	<input type="text" value="M-F: 11:00am - 10:00pm"/> <input type="text" value="Sat: 7:00am - 9:00pm"/> <input type="text" value="Sun: 11:00am - 6:00pm"/>
Credit Cards:	<input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Master Card <input type="radio"/> American Exp. <input type="radio"/> Discover
Text:	<input type="text" value="Commercial accounts available"/> <input type="text" value="Special discounts to licensed contractors."/>

PLEASE PROVIDE BUSINESS INFORMATION

FIG. 2



Get Personal ID

If you are a first time user, you need a user ID. Complete the simple form below for instant registration.

Name: (required)

Address:

City:

State: Zip: (required)

Phone:

Email: (required)

Birthday: (mm/yy)

Select a user name and password.
Each must be between 4 and 10 characters.
Both are required.

Username: Password:

Would you like to be notified via email of specials and new retailers?

☒ Yes ☐ No



Quick-save.com requires a minimal amount of information to create your personal user ID. Since all coupons are personalized, your unique ID number is required to validate the coupons.

Some of our client companies offer their absolute best discounts to frequent buyers and to large ticket buyers. Some also offer better discounts based on the fact that you have opted to allow them to contact you directly in the future.

FIG. 3



Home

get an
ID

story
page

add
your
company

Username:

Password:

Coupons to locate: ☒ All retailers in my area.
☐ New retailers in my area.
☐ All retailers in category: (select below)

Category:

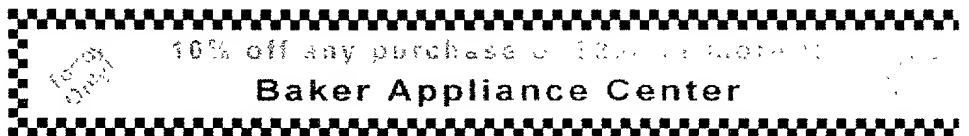
LOGIN AND MAKE A COUPON

New users click here to register.

Forgot you password? click here.

FIG. 4

00110"00000000



Welcome **Kurt Lohse**,

To create a coupon make a selection from below.

Select the store you are planning to visit:
(click here to select new category)

ACME Hardware

then

Enter the amount you plan on spending:

\$150.00

Would you also like a map to this store:

☒ Yes ☐ No

MAKE A COUPON

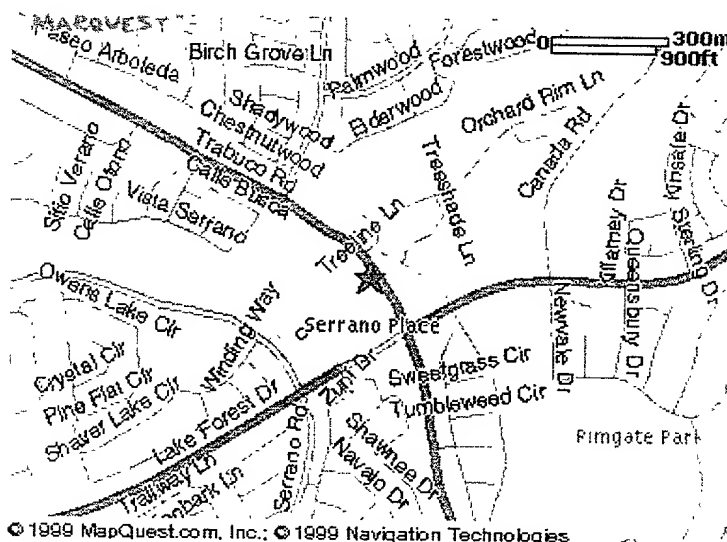
FIG. 5

P.I.N.# LKJFL0005-0362

10% Discount on any purchase of \$100.00 or more
17% Discount on any purchase of \$200.00 or more

8673 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA
714-555-2525

Auth.Phone: 800-555-1212
Auth# HJYT002456-559372-85762



then

Make Another Coupon or Return to Home Page

FIG. 6

FIG. 7

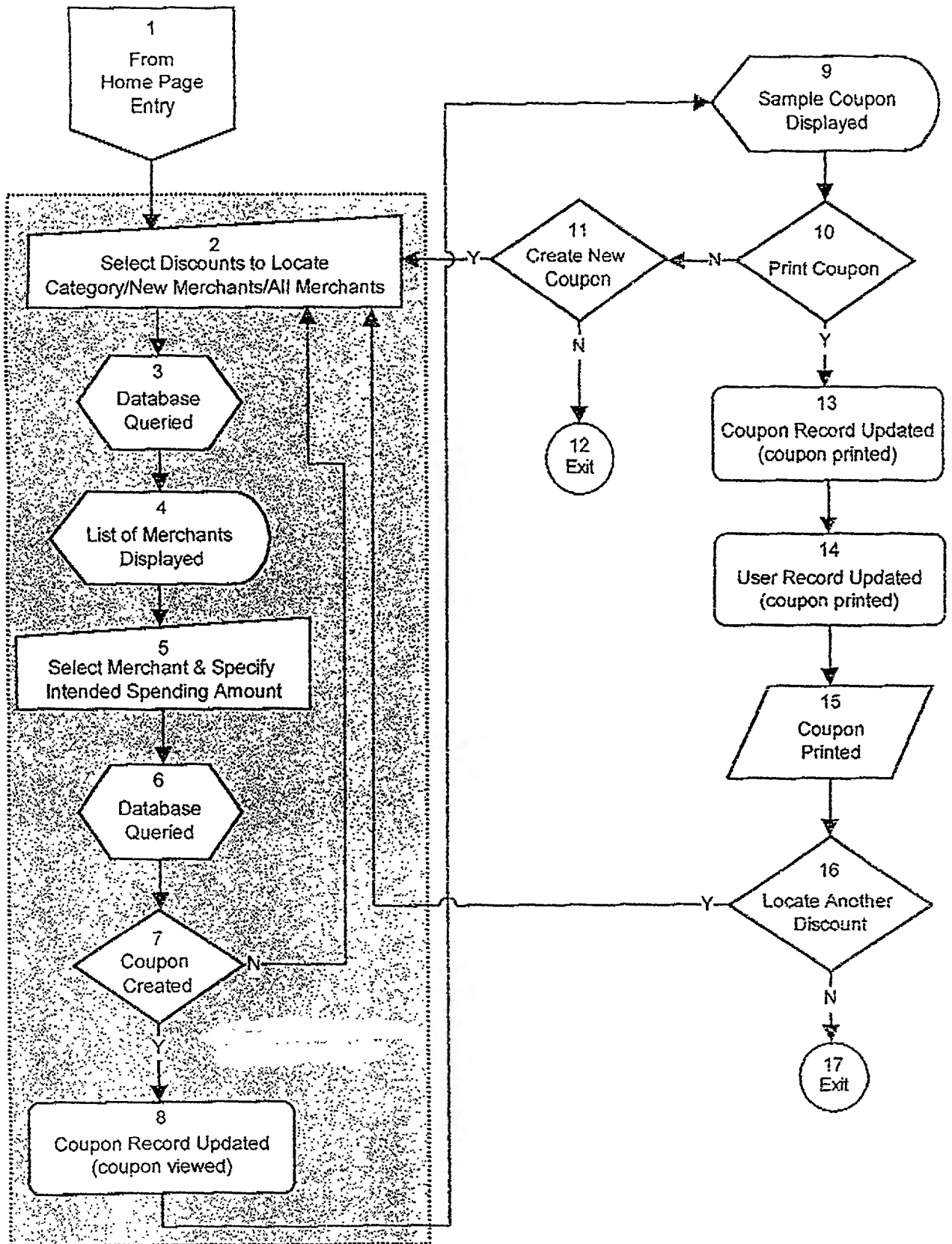


FIG. 8

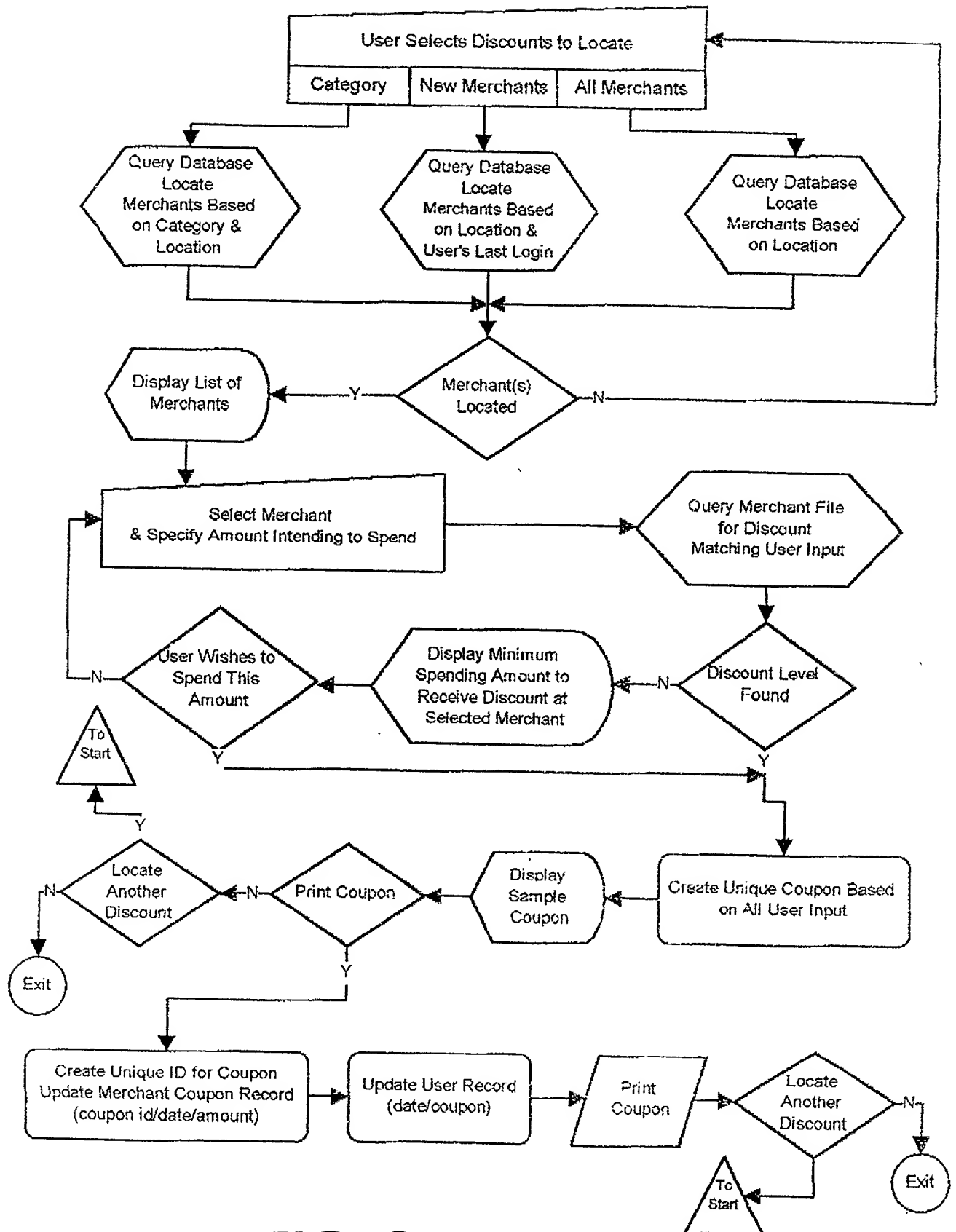


FIG. 9

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)	Attorney Docket Number	LOHSE-1
	First Named Inventor	KURT H. LOHSE
	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	/
	Filing Date	January 11, 2000
	Group Art Unit	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing	OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)
Examiner Name		

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISCOUNT INCENTIVES TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS WHO WISH TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE PURCHASE

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto
OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/01 (12-97)
Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: ☒ Customer Number 1054 → ☐ Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

OR ☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
LEONARD TACHNER	26,344		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

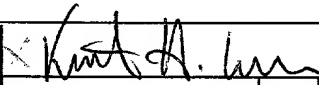
Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number OR ☒ Correspondence address below

Name	LEONARD TACHNER, A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION				
Address	17961 SKY PARK CIRCLE, SUITE 38-E				
Address					
City	IRVINE	State	CA	ZIP	92614-6364
Country	USA	Telephone	(949) 752-8525	Fax	(949) 955-2415

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname					
Kurt H.		Lohse					
Inventor's Signature			Date	1/6/2000			
Residence: City	Huntington Beach	State	CA	Country	USA	Citizenship	USA
Post Office Address	21022 Cocobana Lane						
Post Office Address	Huntington Beach, California 92646						
City	Huntington Beach	State	CA	ZIP	92646	Country	USA

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto